

HANDLE WITH CARE:
HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE
OF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD
PRODUCTS

2009





YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED

to discover how many common products found in your home contain toxic or hazardous materials. These can be hazardous to your health or the environment if used or disposed improperly. Read this brochure to find out how to safely handle and dispose of these special wastes. For additional recycling or disposal information, contact the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at (216) 443-3749 or visit www.cuyahogaswd.org.

WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS?

A product is hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive or explosive. You can tell if a product is hazardous if words such as POISON, DANGER, WARNING and CAUTION appear on the label.

SOME EXAMPLES

Oven cleaner	Oil-based paint	Metal Polish
Medications	Flea and tick powder	Pool Chemicals
Spot remover	Turpentine	Gasoline
Drain cleaner	Batteries	Motor oil
Furniture polish	Household cleaners	Electronics

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF IMPROPER DISPOSAL?

Care must be taken to properly use, store and dispose of hazardous products so they do not harm people, pets and the environment. Hazardous products carelessly tossed in the trash can injure sanitation workers, damage collection vehicles, or leak into the environment. Some products, when poured down the drain or on the ground, can damage plumbing or septic systems and pollute our water supplies. Improper storage of these products within reach of children, or in unmarked or unsealed containers, is a safety hazard.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS?

The best way to manage unwanted hazardous products is to use them up or give them away to someone who can. Since this is not always possible, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is working to increase the availability of recycling and disposal options. The District conducts a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up twice a year to provide residents the opportunity to recycle oil-based paint, solvents, pesticides, automotive products and other household hazardous waste for free. Recycle Your Computer Month is typically held in spring and fall at city service departments throughout Cuyahoga County, and a collection program for mercury is also available.



SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT METHODS >

ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze can be turned in at a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event or diluted with water and poured down a sanitary sewer drain. These are drains within your home which flow to a waste water treatment plant unless your home is connected to a septic system. DO NOT pour into a septic system. DO NOT pour down a storm drain on the street. Storm drains flow directly to streams and Lake Erie.

BATTERIES

Alkaline batteries can be safely disposed in your trash. Batteries that should be recycled include lead-acid batteries from engines and rechargeable (Ni-cad) batteries from cell phones, power tools, cordless phones and lap top computers. Lead-acid (vehicle) batteries can be turned in at AutoZone, Murray's Discount Auto, National Tire and Battery, Sears Automotive Centers and many auto part stores. Rechargeable batteries can be turned in at many retail stores including Alltel, Ameritech Cellular, Best Buy, Cingular Wireless, Radio Shack, Sears, and Target stores. Visit www.rbr.com for locations. Other batteries can be recycled at Bulldog Battery (440) 942-2555.

COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Computer equipment contains hazardous components which make them unsuitable for disposal in a landfill. The District conducts Recycle Your Computer Month events each spring and fall at city service departments throughout Cuyahoga County. Also, computer equipment can be recycled year-round at RET3 job corp. Call (216) 361-9991.

DRAIN CLEANER

The recommended way to dispose of drain cleaner is to use it up according to package directions. Never mix drain cleaner with bleach or ammonia since toxic fumes or an explosion could occur.

FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury and should not be placed in the regular trash. Compact fluorescent bulbs can

be recycled at any Home Depot location. At each Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. Fluorescent tubes from homes can be turned in at a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up. Incandescent light bulbs and halogen bulbs can be placed in the regular trash.

GASOLINE AND KEROSENE

These fuels can be turned in at a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event or can be reconditioned and used up. These fuels, even if they are old or contain oil or water, can be used after being "reconditioned." A fact sheet from the Ohio EPA explaining how to recondition fuels can be found at www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/p2/pdf/HC2web.pdf

Note: When mixing fuels for a lawn mower or snow blower be sure to only mix what you need. At the end of the season, allow the engine to run dry to use up any remaining fuel.

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SOLUTIONS

These products should be used up or given to someone who can. Household cleaners can still be used even if they are several years old. Most water soluble cleaning products can be safely disposed down the drain with running water. Do not mix products! Purchase some of the new environmentally safe products now available at retailers.

MEDICINE

Unwanted medicine should be disposed with your household trash. Keep the medicine in its original container. Remove the label or conceal patient information with a marker. Make the medicine unusable by dissolving pills with water or absorb liquid medication with flour, table salt, or another non-toxic substance. Seal the original container with tape. Place the package inside a non-transparent container and put it out with your weekly rubbish.

MERCURY

Household mercury items such as thermometers, thermostats and switches should be disposed through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's Mercury Collection Program. Call (216) 443-3749 for mercury disposal locations.

MOTOR OIL

Used motor oil can be recycled for free at many service stations and through many city recycling programs. AutoZone, Murray's Discount Auto, Lube Stop, Speedy by Monro and Valvoline Instant Oil Change service stations commonly accept motor oil from the public. Also, check with your city service department to see if they collect used motor oil from residents.

OVEN CLEANER

Oven cleaner is a caustic material that should be used up according to package directions.

PAINT

Latex paint should be hardened and then disposed in the trash. To harden latex paint, remove the lid, mix in cat litter, then let air dry in a safe place until hard. Replace the lid and dispose in the trash in a trash bag. Oil-based paint should be disposed at a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event. Large quantities of usable paint can be donated to a charitable organization. For a list, call the Solid Waste District.

PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES

The best way to dispose of these products is to use them up according to label directions, unless the products contain banned ingredients like DDT or Chlordane. If it is not possible to use up the products, then safely store for a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS

Mixed black and white photography solutions can be diluted with water and flushed down a sanitary drain in your home. Do not dispose into a septic system. For more information about disposal of unmixed chemicals or color chemicals contact the Eastman Kodak Environmental Hotline at (800) 242-2424.

PROPANE CYLINDERS

Most propane suppliers will exchange an old tank when a new tank is purchased. To find an exchange location in your community, log onto www.bluerhino.com or www.amerigas.com. If you are not purchasing a new tank, the following companies will dispose of your tank for a small fee: Welder's Supply (216) 241-1696, Gas House Propane Company (440) 439-4474.

SYRINGES AND HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

Seal in an empty plastic pop bottle and label "household syringes." Discard in trash. DO NOT recycle.

TELEVISIONS AND ELECTRONICS

Television recycling is not a free service in Cuyahoga County. Televisions and other electronic equipment are not accepted during Recycle Your Computer Month. For a list of retailers and other local companies that will recycle televisions and electronics, call the Solid Waste District or visit www.cuyahogawd.org/business/materials/tvs_electronics.pdf

THERMOSTATS

Mercury thermostats can be disposed through the Solid Waste District's Mercury Collection Program. Call the Solid Waste District for more information.

TIRES

Contact your city to ask if they recycle tires. If not, recycle them through the retailer who sells you your new tires. Some tire retailers accept tires from people who are not purchasing new tires. Recycling fees average \$2-3 per tire.



TURPENTINE/PAINT REMOVER/SOLVENTS

Unwanted solvents should be saved for a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event. Solvents can also be reused until they have been used up without losing their effectiveness but they may need to be filtered first. To do this, pour the product through a coffee filter over a glass jar. Paint and other sludge particles

will be trapped in the filter. Wrap the filter in newspaper and dispose in the trash. Store the clean solvent in a sealed and labeled glass jar.

WOOD STAINS & SEALERS

Use up, give to a friend, or turn in at a Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up event.

LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY >

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District does not accept latex paint at the twice-annual Household Hazardous Waste Round-Ups. Latex paint is not hazardous as it is comprised mostly of water. To dispose of latex paint, solidify and place in your curbside trash.

TO SOLIDIFY LATEX PAINT:

- Allow the paint to dry by removing the lid and allowing liquids to evaporate. This works well for small quantities of paint (an inch or two in the bottom of the can), and can take several days.
- Latex paint can also be solidified by mixing in an equal amount of an absorbent material and allowed to dry. Use cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris, oil dry, or “waste paint hardeners” found at home improvement centers.
- Pour thin layers (about 1” of paint) into a cardboard box lined with plastic. Allow the paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened.
- When thoroughly dry, the remaining hardened paint should be placed in a garbage bag discarded with your regular trash.

DO NOT:

- Dump the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will travel directly to surface and/or ground water.
- Pour it down the drain. While small amounts of latex paint can safely be washed down the drain to a septic system or wastewater treatment plant, this practice should be kept to a minimum. Limit this to brush cleaning and clean-up.
- Throw liquid paint in the regular trash. It may be released from the can when trash is compacted and may seep out of a waste collection vehicle onto your street.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMS >

For event details and dates, call the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at (216) 443-3749 or visit www.cuyahogawd.org.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP

This free event is held every spring and fall. During this event, households may turn in unwanted oil-based paints, stains, sealers, solvents, garden chemicals, automotive fluids and other hazardous household products for proper disposal. Collection locations include many city service garages and the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

MERCURY COLLECTION PROGRAM

A year-round mercury disposal program is offered through a partnership with a few suburban fire departments, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Residents with mercury items such as thermometers and thermostats should call the Solid Waste District for a list of locations.

RECYCLE YOUR COMPUTER MONTH

This event is sponsored twice a year by the Solid Waste District to collect unwanted computer equipment from the public. Collection events are typically held in spring and fall at city service departments throughout Cuyahoga County.

SAFE HANDLING TIPS >

- Buy only what you need.
- Follow label directions and use only what is needed for the job. Twice as much does not mean twice the results. Wear gloves and protective clothing to prevent skin contact.
- Use products in well ventilated areas.
- Do not mix products. Doing so can cause dangerous chemical reactions or an explosion.
- Avoid aerosol products. Aerosols disperse the substance in tint droplets that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- Store products in their original container in well-ventilated areas.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

323 Lakeside Avenue West, Suite 400, Cleveland, OH 44113

Phone: (216) 443-3749 Fax: (216) 443-3733

www.cuyahogawd.org

Jimmy Dimora
Commissioner

Timothy F. Hagan
Commissioner

Peter Lawson Jones
Commissioner